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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, who makes us one, Your word informs us that a house divided against itself cannot stand. As the Members of this body face divisive issues, give them the wisdom to find creative ways of maintaining unity. In these uncertain times, help them to avoid the slippery slope of disunity. Remind them that pride comes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall. Teach each of us that before honor is humility and that losing one's life for a just cause is the best way to find it.

Lord, permit the powerful forces that unite us to overcome the feeble winds that divide. Transform cacophony into harmony. We pray in the Name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DAVID VITTER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 17, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. VITTER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we will start the session with a 1-hour period of morning business. Following that period, we will resume the highway bill for the final 30 minutes of debate. At the conclusion of those remarks, we will begin a series of debates on any of the remaining pending amendments. It is my understanding that several of the amendments will not require rollcalls; therefore, we expect three or four votes, including final passage.

We will be recessing today from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy luncheons. We will be talking to the managers shortly, but I would expect we would be able to, starting at around 11:30 or noon today, do at least a couple of those votes, and then, following the luncheons, complete the bill.

Mr. President, tomorrow I expect the Senate will begin consideration of some of the judicial nominations that have been available on the Executive Calendar, as we determine specifically the plans for tomorrow. But we will be going by regular order tomorrow, taking one of the nominees from the Exec-

utive Calendar. But over the course of the day, we will come back and be more specific with those announcements, after discussion with the Democratic leader.

JORDAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for the past week, I have come to the Senate floor to briefly discuss my recent fact-finding mission to the Middle East, having had the opportunity to travel to Israel, the West Bank, Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan 2 weeks ago.

I will conclude these Mideast reports with a very brief discussion of my time in Jordan.

We began the Jordan leg of our trip with a visit to King Abdullah. Son of the much admired King Hussein, King Abdullah has been a trusted and valuable friend to the United States and a steadfast partner in the war on terrorism.

We discussed Jordan's progress toward economic reform. Jordan is embarking upon free market reforms and encouraging the growth of small business and entrepreneurs. We know in the American experience that entrepreneurship is that engine of economic and job growth. I am encouraged by the progress that King Abdullah is making, and I am hopeful the Jordanian economy flourishes. As it does so, it will become a model of reform throughout the Middle East.

We also talked about the importance of the U.S.-Jordanian partnership in the peace process. King Abdullah's father exhibited great courage and foresight as he led his nation to peace with Israel in the 1990s.

Because of Jordan's relations with Israel and its special ties to the Palestinians, Jordan can be a substantial contributor to the peace process. By coordinating our efforts, I believe Jordan and the United States can help the parties build momentum toward a peaceful resolution.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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